

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN RELATION TO THE

REMOVAL OF THE INDIAN AGENCY

FROM

FORT WAYNE, IN INDIANA.

MAY 1, 1828.

Printed by order of the Senate of the United States,

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY DUFF GREEN.

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To the Senate of the United States.

WASHINGTON, *May 1, 1828.*

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, of the 17th ultimo, relating to the removal of the Indian Agency from Fort Wayne, in the State of Indiana, I transmit a report from the Secretary of War, with the documents and information requested by the resolution.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, *April 30, 1828.**To the President of the United States.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit, herewith, the information called for by a resolution of the Senate of the United States, of the 17th inst. in a report to me from the officer in charge of the Office of Indian Affairs, upon all the points of the resolution, except one: which embraces a call, also, for "any other facts connected with the removal of the Agency." Upon this last member of the resolution, I have the honor to state, that the agency, while at Fort Wayne, was in the midst of white population, which has been always considered improper, since the Indians, in going into such settlements, whether on business with the agent, or for their annuity, suffer by such intercourse. Hence the successive removals, from time to time, of agencies, as the white population pressed upon them. Although the removal of the agency may not effectually save those who are resolved, under any, and every circumstance, to get liquor, and indulge in its use to excess, still it is taking those away who may be more temperate in their habits, from the place where the evil abounds, and against the use of which, when they get within its reach, so few Indians have the power to make successful resistance. Or, if the evil were not lessened, still the Executive may be considered as having done its duty to these unfortunate people. It is known that many lives are lost, in and about Fort Wayne, by drunken Indians fighting one another; and, every year, at the period of delivering out to them their annuity, if they do not kill, they wound and maim each other with their knives and other instruments of destruction. It was hoped, when the order for the removal of the agency was given, that the same temptation, to the same extent, would not exist, to the practice of these enormities. Similar facts, it is believed, led the Superintendent of the Michigan Territory to order the payment made to Indians, who had hitherto gone to Detroit, to receive it in the interior, with the view of mitigating those evils at that place.

Apart, however, from these facts, it appeared to be indispensable to a due regard to legislative enactments, that the agency should be removed from Fort Wayne. The act of Congress of May 18, 1824, 2d section, requires "each Indian Agent to reside, and keep his Agency *within or near* the territory claimed by the tribe or tribes of Indians for which he may be agent," and "at such place as the President of the United States may designate."

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES BARBOUR.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, 29th April, 1828.

To the Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.

SIR: In pursuance of your directions, I have the honor to submit, herewith, copies of "all the recommendations, either to the President or Secretary of War, urging the removal of the Indian agency from Fort Wayne, in the State of Indiana, and copies of all the remonstrances, letters, names and evidences of those who opposed the removal of the agency," so far as the originals are found on the files of this office; "also, the copy of the order of the Secretary of War, for the removal of the agency from Fort Wayne."

The "spot of land to which the agency has been removed," is on the Wabash, between the mouths of Pipe creek and Eel river, and on the Great Miami reservation. The Indians, it was understood from Gen. Tipton, own the land to which the agency has been transferred.

It appears from the records of the Department, which I have examined, that the Indian agency was originally established at Fort Wayne in 1802.

Respectfully submitted.

THO. L. McKENNEY.

REMOVAL OF THE INDIAN AGENCY FROM FORT WAYNE.

Colonel Thomas L. McKenny, to General John Tipton.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, 14th March, 1828.

To General JOHN TIPTON,
Indian Agent, Fort Wayne.

SIR: The Secretary of War authorizes the removal of your agency, to the place* named by you, on or near the Wabash, and at the point designated by you, and marked by me on the map in this office.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. L. McKENNEY.

* The Great Miami reservation, south of the Wabash, between the mouth of Pipe creek, and mouth of Eel river.

The Hon. James Noble, and the Hon. O. H. Smith, to the Hon. James Barbour, Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, March 31st, 1828.

SIR: We learn with regret that the Indian agency is removed from Fort Wayne to Eel river, in Indiana, to any spot of land that the Indian Agent may think proper. We are well aware that your object is for the good of the State of Indiana. The removal of the agency is injurious to the future interest of the State, and in direct opposition to the policy heretofore pursued by the United States, in relation to the Indians, and the main object to remove them as soon as convenient, beyond the limits of the State, and even beyond the Mississippi.

How does it happen that no agency was ever established at the Delaware towns on White river, when that agency would have been more convenient to the western part, southern part, and eastern part of the State of Indiana? The agency remained at Fort Wayne, and the constant application on behalf of the people of the State was to remove the Indians out of the limits of the State, and out of the reach of the white people, which has been accomplished to a certain extent. The Indian title was extinguished to all the tract of country in the centre of the State, and south of the Wabash, upon a portion of which is now the seat of government for the State; and the whole purchase, or nearly so, laid off in counties, (bordering on the great Miami reservation of thirty miles square, situate south of the Wabash,) settled by the whites, and their settlements pressed even up to the reservation. Since that time another treaty has been held, purchasing a portion of the country lying north of the Wabash, and this large reservation, including the very district of country through which the proposed canal in Indiana is to pass, and already located, connecting the waters of the Wabash with those of Lake Erie. Is it not known that Congress is now engaged in passing a law attaching the last named purchase to the land district at Fort Wayne, and the one at Crawfordsville? Is it not known that one or more surveyors have been engaged last fall in running the exterior lines of the ranges and townships?

If this be so, and so it is, that by the time you expend unnecessarily the public money, building houses for the accommodation of the Indian agent and sub-agent, council houses, and blacksmith shops, at the public expense, the whole country will be settled by the whites, as it is now in the south of those Indians; and the very reasons now assigned for the removal of the agency, that whiskey is too near the Indians, will it not be so at the mouth of Eel river? If the agent could not prevent the morals of the Indians being corrupted at Fort Wayne, owing to the whites selling whiskey or trading with them, how can he do it on Eel river? He is located at Fort Wayne, with comfortable quarters, clear of expense to the United States, and so is the sub-agent. If the agency is removed, is the property to be sold? If not, is it to go to ruin, and the new agency built up at the public expense, to be located where the agent can do no more than he can at Fort Wayne?

The gentlemen who have urged you to the removal of the agency, are all men of respectability and fair standing; so are those who have opposed it.

Believing, as we do, that it is the true interest of the State to attract the attention of the Indians from the whites as far as possible, until they can be removed out of the limits of the State, no one spot in Indiana is so well calculated for the agency as that of Fort Wayne, and none where an agent could discharge his duty more promptly.

You have had the best evidence of the wishes of the people of the State. If they did not wish to have the Indians removed out of the State, why did they not ask you to establish the agency on White river? To the reverse, they have urged the removal and extinguishment of the Indian title.

Is it not strange to tell, for years past no complaint has been made as to the impositions of the whites upon the Indians? Suppose, for instance, the agency should remain at Fort Wayne until January next, would any great mischief be done?

We ask you to postpone the removal until that time. In the mean time the Legislature of the State will convene, and we shall be content, if they say remove the agency, and fix the spot; we are willing to take the responsibility, and place ourselves before the people.

Should you take this course, if you err, you will have erred on the safe side, and we will have to bear the judgment of the people, and your department relieved.

We hope you will not lose time, by sending on the order to postpone the removal until the 1st of January next.

We say if the agency is removed, it should go to Carey, on the St. Joseph's, out of the State, where the Rev. Mr. McCoy resides, whose character is known, and who has acted the faithful umpire to the Indians, and whose Christian deportment may aid them.

The true interest for the State of Indiana is this: remove the Indians out of the State, and finally, place the State in a situation for a port of entry upon the margin of Lake Michigan, that the commerce of the country may flourish; and upon extinguishment of the Indian title, the enterprise of the citizens will be extended, and the plough and sickle will operate. Establish no agency that will, ere long, be in the centre of a white population.

There are no settlements of whites that the Indians have to pass through, going to Fort Wayne, for *pay, goods, blacksmith's work*, at the present, till they nearly approach Fort Wayne.

An early answer is desired.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JAMES NOBLE,
O. H. SMITH.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR, Secretary of War.

General John Tipton, to Governor Cass.

FORT WAYNE, 5th April, 1828.

DEAR SIR: I am authorized by the Department to remove the agency from this place to the Indian country, and am directed to locate it on the south side of the Wabash, about 25 miles below the Miami Mills, and 35 south-east of the Potawatamie mill and blacksmith shop. Will leave this place on the 7th inst. to establish the agency on the new site, and will continue the blacksmith and laborer (heretofore employed at this place) with the agency, until otherwise instructed by your Excellency, and will leave the sub-agent here in charge of the old fort and reservation.

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN TIPTON,
Indian Agent.

His Exc'y LEWIS CASS, *Detroit.*

General John Tipton, to Colonel McKenney.

FORT WAYNE, 5th April, 1828.

Col. McKENNEY:

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 14th of last month, authorizing the removal of this agency, has been duly received, and with this I have the honor to enclose to you a copy of my letter, of this date, to the Superintendent, on that subject.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN TIPTON,
Indian Agent.

COPIES OF PAPERS

IN FAVOR OF THE REMOVAL OF THE INDIAN AGENCY FROM FORT WAYNE.

*William Conner, Calvin Fletcher, and Jordan Vigus, to the
Secretary of War.*

To the Hon. JAMES BARBOUR, *Secretary at War.*

The undersigned, citizens of the State of Indiana, having, for some time, viewed with regret the annual decrease of the two tribes of Indians, (Potawatamies and Miamies,) and being conscious that the destruction and ultimate extinction of these people, are inevitable, unless some steps should be taken to prevent the free introduction of spirituous liquors among them, we have taken the liberty of addressing a line to the Secretary at War, on the subject; and urge the propriety of changing the place of the agency, and making it obligatory on the Indian agent at Fort Wayne, to remove his agency within the Indian country. We suggest the following reasons therefor:

1st. Fort Wayne is situate on the confines of this State, near to Ohio and Michigan Territory; therefore, the municipal regulations of this State, in regard to retailing of spirituous liquors, are no restraint upon transient persons from Ohio, who can dispose of their liquors to the Indians in any manner, lawful or unlawful, and get beyond the jurisdiction of our laws without detection.

2d. Our own laws permit persons to retail spirituous liquors as tavern keepers, and, under this character, many persons at Fort Wayne and in the vicinity, dispose of large quantities to the Indians; riot and drunkenness ensue, which too often terminate in cruel murders.

3d. It is difficult for the agent to transact business with them, in consequence of repeated drunkenness. They spend their annuity which they receive in money, and will part with their horses, guns, peltry, and even their last blanket, to obtain spirituous liquors, and thereby reduce themselves, their squaws and children, to abject wretchedness.

4th. The undersigned are ready to say that the annuities paid to the Indians at Fort Wayne, are of no real service to them; it being the residence of the whites, whether their annuity is in money or clothing, it is disposed of by the Indians, and bought up by traders before they leave the ground. Many of us were present at the payments which were made in August last in the Indian country, where goods to the amount of \$25,000 were paid to the Miamies, and were highly gratified to observe the good order which the Indian agent maintained among the Indians, being on the Indian reserve, where the laws of the United States could be enforced. No liquor was there admitted on the ground; consequently, the business which occupied a space of

ten days, was conducted in peace and harmony with the Indians, one thousand in number.

5th. It is in consequence of their immoderate use of ardent spirits that they became troublesome to the white inhabitants. When they are stripped of all their property by cunning traders, they then commit depredations on the whites—steal their horses, and deter them from pursuing their common avocations. Were the agency removed within the Indian country, the case would be otherwise.

6th. The reserved lands of the Miamies, to which they are now moving, lay something like fifty or sixty miles west of Fort Wayne; and the residence of the Potawatamies is further west and northwest from that place. The several mills belonging to the two tribes, are on their reserves, and distant from Fort Wayne, where the Indian agent resides, something like seventy or eighty miles; and the smiths, allowed by the general government, have their establishments near to the mills.

Therefore, the undersigned would recommend to the Secretary at War, as it is the design of government that the agent should maintain good order among these people, to see that they are not imposed upon by the designing; and to further their happiness and prosperity as far as possible, that the place of the agency should be changed, and hereafter make it obligatory on the Indian agent at Fort Wayne, to remove his agency within the Indian country, so as to be convenient to both tribes. The undersigned, for further information on this subject, would beg leave to refer the Secretary at War to Governors Ray, of this State, and Cass, of Michigan Territory.

WILLIAM CONNER,
CALVIN FLETCHER,
JORDAN VIGUS.

Memorial of sundry members of the General Assembly of Indiana, to the Secretary of War.

INDIANAPOLIS, 22d December, 1827.

To the Honorable JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.

The undersigned, members of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, respectfully represent: That, fully impressed with the importance of the removal of the Indian Agency from Fort Wayne, to some suitable point on the Wabash river, as calculated to promote the interest of the United States and of the Indian tribes dependant on said agency; and that, at the same time, it is interesting to Indiana, as it is conceived to be just, that the benefits arising from the trade and intercourse with these Indians, should result to the citizens of the State, whose soil they occupy: We would, therefore, recommend the removal of the Fort Wayne Indian Agency to the mouth of Eel river, it being a point central

to the Indians interested, and affording the facilities of water communication, preferably to any other site in the district.

Signed,

D. C. LANE,
N. HUNTINGTON,
JAMES BLAIR,
JNO. M. COLEMAN,
JOHN MILROY,
JOHN DE PARRIE,
JAMES GREGORY,
JOHN SMILY,
ELISHA LOUGE,
J. G. READ,
ISAAC MONTGOMERY,
THOMAS McCLURE,
CHARLES M. JOHNSTON.

Honorable William Hendricks to the Secretary of War, with a memorial of sundry citizens of Indiana.

INDIANA, January 7th, 1828.

The undersigned, citizens of Indiana, beg leave to represent, that we are of opinion it would be proper to transfer the site of the agency now located at Fort Wayne, to the Indian country, for the following reasons:

First. While the payments were made at that place, one or more Indians were killed, and much difficulty and confusion was produced by the liquor sold or given to the Indians during the payment.

Second. As the Indians at the late treaty sold the land adjacent to the Fort, they must now reside at a greater distance from it, and of course it is very inconvenient for them to see their agent, or call on their blacksmith for work.

Third. The line of the State of Ohio runs so near to Fort Wayne, that persons can easily distribute liquor amongst the Indians, and escape the municipal regulations of this State, by recrossing the line.

Fourth. Some of us attended the treaty, and the payments made the Indians since that time, in the Indian country, where the utmost good order prevailed; no drinking or quarrelling took place, and we are decidedly of opinion, that it will save the Department much trouble, and be a great service to the Indians, to order the agent to remove his office, and do all his business at a proper site in the Indian country, separated from the immediate vicinity of the white population.

JAMES GREGORY, *Shelby County, Indiana.*
D. BURR, *Brownstown, Jackson County, Indiana.*
WILLIAM CONNER, *Hamilton County, Indiana.*
WALTER WILSON.

SENATE CHAMBER, *January 7th, 1828.*

DEAR SIR: Permit me to enclose you the above document, enveloped to me for that purpose, and to say to you, that the gentlemen whose names are thereunto subscribed, are highly respectable.

With great respect,

WILLIAM HENDRICKS.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF WAR.

General Tipton to Governor Cass.

Extract of a letter from John Tipton, Indian Agent, to his Excellency Gov. Cass, dated

13th October, 1827.

“The arrangement of paying the Indians their annuity in their own country, is an excellent one. I have had the Miamies collected at their different payments, and upwards of 2,000 Potawatamies at their payment last week—had but little trouble with whiskey; no quarrelling nor killing. The treaty ground has now become too public a place. The next payment to the Miamies must be made on their reservation.”

Hon. Thomas H. Blake, to the Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, *January 7, 1828.*

HON. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.

SIR: The late purchases from the Indians have so changed the character of Fort Wayne, as a point to trade with them and superintend their concerns, that I am induced to believe you will consider the removal of the Indian agency from that place necessary. If your recollection of the country does not fully serve you, a reference to the map, more especially to the one I took the liberty of showing you the other day, will, I think, satisfy you, that the most eligible point to locate the agency at present, is at or near the mouth of Eel river, on the Wabash. By this position the Indian agency would be placed in the centre of the Indian reserves, and it would be one of great convenience to the Indian country in the north-western part of our State. Such a change may not only be reasonably expected, but it would be very acceptable to the people in the western part of Indiana, to a great extent. If you should determine on this removal of the agency, which I hope you will, it is also the wish that the present agent, Gen. Tipton, should go with it to continue in that capacity.

With very great respect, &c.

THO. H. BLAKE.

Hon. Jonathan Jennings to the Secretary of War.

January 7th, 1828.

The Hon. JAMES BARBOUR.

SIR: The undersigned takes the occasion to solicit the removal of the Indian Agency from Fort Wayne, to some convenient point on the Wabash river, at or near the mouth of Eel river. There are several reasons to induce this request: the chief of which are, the remoteness of the agency from the rounds of the Indians attached to it, in part occasioned by the late extinguishment of Indian title, which leaves the agency to be surrounded by white population. To this must be added, the number of traders, who are always seeking to procure the annuities of the Indians, by the sale of spirits, and every other means that can be devised, to the serious injury of these unfortunate beings.

With great respect, yours, &c.

JONATHAN JENNINGS.

General Tipton to Colonel McKenney.

WASHINGTON, 8th January, 1828.

Col. McKENNEY:

SIR: Permit me again to call your attention to the subject of transferring my office as Indian Agent, from Fort Wayne to the Indian country, and respectfully refer you to letters from part of the delegation in Congress from Indiana, to my letter of the 7th of February last, and to the fourth paragraph of a copy of a letter of 13th October last, to the Superintendent, for part of my reasons for pressing this measure. The experience of another year has more fully confirmed the reasons first set out, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the interested and the envious. There is not an honorable man in the country whose judgment is not warped by interest, or prejudice, but will admit that the credit of the Department, and interest of the Indians, demand the removal. A majority of the delegation in Congress, and I have no doubt two-thirds of the people of the State, are in favor of the measure. The — section of an act of Congress, passed on the — day of —, provides that Indian agents shall reside and keep their office in or near the country of the Indians, for which they are agent, at such place as the President of the United States may direct; and by your instructions of the 9th of last March, I am directed to pay the Indians their annuity in their own country. It is known to the Department, that I have to pay them 100 barrels of salt, 1000. pounds of tobacco, 1000 of steel, and 2000 of iron, each year, besides the silver annuity. The transportation is both difficult and dangerous, and they arrive at different seasons of the year; and I now propose to remove my office and residence to the place contemplated by law.

With great respect, &c.

JOHN TIPTON,
Indian Agent.

General Tipton to Colonel McKenney.

INDIAN AGENCY AT FORT WAYNE,

7th February, 1827.

SIR: Long experience has convinced me that it is both necessary and proper, at this time, to transfer the site of this agency from this place to the Wabash, for the following reasons, to wit:

1st. Because the Indians, whose business I superintend, principally live south-west, west, and north-west, from 15 to 140 miles distance from the Fort.

2d. Because the agency is situate on forty acres of land, reserved for that purpose, adjoining the seat of justice of a county, which is inhabited by 50 to 100 families, seven out of ten of whom depend on Indian trade for their living, and all the traders sell whiskey.

3d. Because the United States provides a blacksmith at the agency, to work for the Indians, to which they come daily, and while the smith is doing their work, they very frequently go to the shops where whiskey is sold, become intoxicated, and are cheated out of their clothing.

4th. Because the salt paid to the Indians here is invariably bought from them for little or nothing; few of the merchants here find it their interest to keep salt to sell, in their stores; the principal one that does, told me, this day, that he had not made any profit by selling salt last year.

5th. Because the traders in town are constantly coaxing the Indians to buy goods on credit; several suits have been commenced; judgment, in every case rendered, is against the Indians. In one case, this winter, I was compelled to enter myself bail to save one of the chiefs from being committed to jail for goods bought principally by his young men.

6th. Because, whenever it is known in town that a family of Indians are encamped near it, one or more traders go to their camp with whiskey, and the Indians are frequently cheated out of all their property.

7th. And because many persons here are in the habit of buying from the Indians their clothes, blankets, kettles and hatchets. More than fifty suits could now be brought for violating the intercourse law, in buying articles which, though small in themselves, are of great importance to an Indian. I will here mention one case that happened last week, to wit: a female, wife of a civil officer of this county, showed her friend a shawl that she had bought from a drunk squaw for seven apples and 12½ cents; about 25 cents for the article that had cost the squaw \$3 50.

If this agency was situate in the Indian country, or on a large reservation, say one or two miles square, the Indians could visit their agent and blacksmith, get their ploughs, traps, &c. mended, without being compelled to mingle with those miserable white persons that live by this dishonorable traffic. No argument of mine, it is presumed, can be wanting to convince you of the propriety of the removal. I am authorized to say, that Gov. Cass coincides with me in opinion, and before this time, I have no doubt, he has addressed a letter to

yourself, or some of the Indiana delegation in Congress, on this subject. Should the late treaty be ratified, the valley of the Upper Wabash will settle rapidly, and the presence of an agent will be indispensable to prevent the difficulties that would otherwise arise between the Indians and settlers of the new country. The person charged with the selection of the new site, would have an eye to a central position. Sixty or seventy miles from this place, the land owned by the Miamies and Potawatamies approximates very near each other. On or near the Indian land the location will doubtless be made. Should it be necessary to place it on the Indian land, either nation, I have no doubt, will give the United States a sufficient quantity of land for that purpose; and a sale of the reservation here, as an addition to the town plat, which is much wanted by the citizens, will yield a sufficient sum to erect the buildings on the new site, so that the Treasury cannot suffer by the measure proposed.

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN TIPTON, *Indian Agent.*

To Col. T. L. McKENNEY,
Indian Office.

The Hon. Jonathan Jennings to the Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, 22d February, 1825.

The Hon. JAMES BARBOUR.

SIR: *The removal of the agency from Fort Wayne*, to a position more in the interior, and more contiguous to the vicinity of the Indians attached to that agency, is deemed an object of importance, especially to the Indians themselves. The present situation is very materially changed from what it was formerly. It is surrounded by white population, and affording every facility to the Indians to procure ardent spirits, and particularly when receiving their annuities; and the consequence is, that they are defrauded of a considerable portion of the money they receive from the government; and, on account of the *situation*, the agent has it not in his power to prevent the laws from being violated with impunity. The removal is, therefore, respectfully urged.

With respect, &c.

JONATHAN JENNINGS.

General Tipton to the Secretary of War.

INDIAN AGENCY, 23d February, 1828.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,

Secretary of War.

DEAR SIR: From the conversation that passed in the office when at the city, I expected by this mail to receive orders to transfer my office to the Indian country, and have made arrangements accordingly. Not having received it, and the time is passing rapidly away, suffer me again respectfully to state, that, early in the next year, it is expected the work will commence on at least thirty miles of the Wabash canal, lying between this place and the Indian villages. The Indians cannot come here, nor I cannot do the duty of an agent with credit to myself, or the Department. I enclosed by this mail to Col. McKenney a copy of a letter from Governor Cass. You cannot misunderstand it. I would also refer to Col. Johnson, General Harrison, and Governor Hendricks, who have a knowledge of the topography of the country, and will concur with me in saying my request is reasonable.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN TIPTON, *Indian Agent.*

Extract of a letter from General Tipton to Col. McKenney, dated 23d February, 1828.

"I have seen and conversed with a number of our best men, on the subject of the removal of this agency. Those who oppose will have to account for it to our people some day. I hope for the order to remove by the next mail; at all events, suffer me to reside on the Wabash, take the blacksmith, and leave the sub-agent in charge of the public property here."

"P. S. I enclose a copy of a letter from Governor Cass, by which you will see what he says."

Governor Cass to General Tipton. Enclosed in General Tipton's letter of 23d February.

DETROIT, February 4, 1828.

DEAR SIR: I received your letter from Washington, and also one from Governor Hendricks, and one from Governor Jennings, respecting the removal of your agency from Fort Wayne. On this subject, I have made no secret of my opinion, but I have been unwilling to obtrude it upon the Department. The matter, you know, is one which is not within the ordinary routine of my duties; and I have always

thought the delegation from Indiana, in Congress, should decide it, as it is a question affecting that portion of the country generally. I had supposed the delegation would readily agree, but I now find some of them are opposed to the proposed movement. I have not been called upon by the Department for my opinion, and it would be therefore indelicate, if not improper, for me to offer one. I have expressed this view to Governor Jennings and Governor Hendricks; at the same time, I am fully prepared to make a report upon the matter, should I be required so to do.

I am, &c.

LEWIS CASS.

Gen. TIPTON.

COPIES OF PAPERS

AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF THE INDIAN AGENCY FROM FORT WAYNE.

Samuel Hanna to the Hon. James Noble and the Hon. William Hendricks.

FORT WAYNE, *January 31st, 1828.*

GENTLEMEN: I have been absent for some weeks, and on my return find a great stir and uneasiness among the people here respecting the Indian agency. There is a report here that the agent is endeavoring to remove the agency from this place to the Indian country. (Supposed to Eel river.) There has been a remonstrance drawn up and signed by the people, and forwarded to the Secretary of War, protesting against such a measure; but I fear that instrument fails in the most important points necessary in order to have the desired effect, viz: a statement of the facts relative to the case. Being satisfied myself that the great object of the government is to benefit the Indians, I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject, with a hope that you will in your wise deliberations use your influence, after obtaining satisfactory information on the subject, to adjust this matter in a manner best calculated to meliorate the condition of the unfortunate Indians, and strengthen the confidence of the citizens of this republic in the official acts of our public officers, always keeping an eye to the welfare of all parties interested, without any sinister or selfish motives; but having always in view a just and righteous administration, without regarding the whims or caprice of any individual.

From these considerations, gentlemen, I will venture to make some statements relative to this matter, which, if true, (and I am not afraid of contradiction,) ought to have some weight in regulating this affair.

1st. I do not believe it is the wish of the Indians that the payment of their annuities should be made at any other place than this—this belief is framed from expressions made by many of the principal men of the nation.

2d. That it is for their advantage to continue their trade and intercourse with this place, there is no earthly doubt, for the following reasons: It is as central a point to the Indians in this agency as any other that can be named within the State, where there is a white settlement; and there never was nor never will be a trading place in the State, where the Indians can be so well suited in the articles of merchandise as here. There is at present about \$30,000 worth of actual capital vested in Indian goods, for the retail of this town—and that is divided in six stores, which naturally creates a great competition in trade, and enables the natives not only to purchase their goods at a fair price, but frequently they take advantage of the great thirst the traders have for their cash and articles of trade, and follow the example of their white brethren, improve their opportunities, take advantage of the times, and wants of the merchants, and supply themselves with necessaries of life for less money than the articles cost or can be afforded at a profit. Taking all these things together into consideration, the local situation of the place, the convenience, the long and continued place of resort, the wishes of the Indians to continue the agency here, the advantages from the great competition in trade, and the fact that there is a certain class of people that always follow the Indians with a view of speculation, debauching, and living on their means; I am well convinced that the removal of the agency or payment, will not improve their condition, but have a contrary effect: and will in no way be to the advantage of the government, either in curtailing the expenses of that department, or facilitate in the wise and liberal policy used towards the Indians in endeavoring to civilize them, and affording them the means and create a taste for agriculture. Besides, would it not be a breach of good faith on the part of the government? We have paid into the public treasury, and expended otherwise, our thousands and tens of thousands of dollars, for lands and improvements in this town and its vicinity, upon the supposed advantages arising from the location of the public offices at this place, their central position, and a belief that the government would not do a vain thing, or make a removal without some advantage resulting therefrom. I now leave this subject, with the utmost confidence that you will do us justice, as the nature of the case may require.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

SAMUEL HANNA.

Samuel Hanna to the Hon. O. H. Smith.

FORT WAYNE, *February 2d, 1828.*

DEAR SIR: Your esteemed favor of the 8th January, came to hand last mail, in my absence at Indianapolis. Thank you for your kind attention to our business, and find from your protest, you well understand the

nature of our case, therefore shall say nothing on that subject. With regard to the wishes of the people of this county, I do not know of one that is favorable to a removal of the agency, but all view it as operating very materially to the injury of the place. I feel, however, satisfied you will endeavor to prevent it.

Your attention will be gratefully remembered.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

SAMUEL HANNA.

Hon. O. H. SMITH, Member of Congress.

W. G. & G. W. Ewing to Hon. O. H. Smith.

FORT WAYNE, *February 1, 1828.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 7th January, was received the 25th of the same month, and all the matter in relation to the removal of the agency communicated to the people. It produced a great excitement amongst them; and, without any delay, the most respectable men amongst us came forward and put into circulation the petition you will receive by this day's mail. All seem to unite earnestly in opposing the removal.

In the meantime Gen. Tipton has arrived, and appears confident that the agency will be removed; and states further, that the decision will take place before our petition can possibly reach you. From this many show dissatisfaction, and say that the decision should have been deferred a sufficient time to enable the people to be fully heard. In your communications with the several persons who have written to you on the subject, in the event of a removal, it would be well, we think, to state the reasons that actuated the Department, and the general circumstances attending the case.

Should you succeed in opposing the measure, the people here unitedly will be highly gratified.

We have no hesitation in positively stating that the Miamies wish the agency located at this place. We know this from a daily intercourse with them, as well as their own advantage in their intercourse with the whites; and, as to the Potawatamies, we believe it would be their unhesitating choice—and from their situations in the north and north-west, this place is in every respect convenient to them.

There are comfortable public buildings and other conveniences for the accommodation of the agency—remove it, and you must necessarily incur an expense of 2 or \$3,000, that would notoriously be a waste of public funds.

We believe that the principal reason that has induced the agent to wish a removal, is an existing *enmity* between him and a few indifferent persons, without any interest in the country. Certainly public business should not be controlled by the private difficulties of indivi-

duals; but, on the contrary, a Government expressly framed and devised for the *benefit* of the *people*, should be exercised in such a manner that this end may be accomplished, whenever its powers may be brought into operation—the particular convenience and pleasure of its agent and servants, to the contrary notwithstanding: it should not subserve to the promotion of the wishes of one man, in defiance to the just appeal of a whole community.

We unhesitatingly allege, that it is the wish and interest of the Indians, that the agency should continue at this place—and further, that it is to the advantage of the Government and the people of the country, that it should remain where it is at present—and a removal would be, at this time, a violation of good faith, in relation to the people, on the part of the Government; and such an act would be received as a sacrifice and abandonment of their interest and welfare—the inducement held out to the people here to settle, (and that too by public officers,) was the many benefits growing out of the transaction of public business, particularly with the Indians through the agency. Under this influence they purchased lands, and the Government received their hard earned dollars, from 3 to \$9 per acre, for that which, in the contemplated event, will not be an equivalent.

In the great political question which now agitates the nation, a decided majority, we believe, are attached to the present enlightened administration—but should they not be heard in their just and meritorious appeals, their confidence must be impaired, if not given up to the promotion of its vindictive enemies.

The charge of imposition on the part of the traders, we believe to be false, when applied in the general to this class of citizens; and in the petition circulated here, this is mentioned in the way of argument, and not admitted—so understood with us, as the charge is set down by all as a fabrication, and destitute of truth. The impositions are on the part of the Indians, who induce the traders to make them credits yearly to large amounts, one-half of which they never do, nor do they intend to pay. There is one instance in this place, of a grocer and baker, where it is thought drunken Indians are imposed upon; but they are not such as are denominated traders.

Much pains have been taken by Gen. Tipton to injure the reputation of Indian traders. They are hard-fated and enterprising men, and merit the patronage of the Government—such as they receive from that great and good man, Governor Cass.

With high esteem,

Your obedient servants,

W. G. & G. W. EWING.

In our first letter, which we fear has been miscarried, we requested you to subscribe for us, for the National Intelligencer, and enclosed the subscription money, \$6. Should it come to hand, please subscribe for us for that paper; and if not, we will remit again.

HON. O. H. SMITH,

Representative in Congress.

Petition of the Citizens of Allen county, Indiana.

To the Hon. JAMES BARBOUR, *Secretary of War.*

We, your humble petitioners, citizens of the county of Allen, Indiana, have been informed that there has been some attempts to move the Indian Agency from Fort Wayne to some convenient place on the Wabash river, in consequence of the imposition practised upon the Indians by the traders. For instance, suppose the imposition, in a degree, by some of the traders, yet it could not be expected that a removal would better the case, inasmuch as the agency draws with it a great quantity of Indian traders; and of that number, no doubt, some would violate any general rule. The agency was located under the faith of the Government, at Fort Wayne, previous to the first sales of public lands within this district. The people purchased their lands, and have settled the same, under a belief that the agency would continue at Fort Wayne. The public buildings are amply sufficient for the accommodation of the whole agency, with some small repairs.

We think a removal of the agency would not add any thing to the General Government or the Indians, and would materially injure all the present settlers of this country; and therefore, we, your humble petitioners, pray that you, in your wise deliberation, may think it premature to remove the agency from this to any other place, at this time. And, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c. &c.

January 28, 1828.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>
Joseph Holman,	Fort Wayne.	Fra's. D. Sunderland,	Ft. Wayne.
Anthony L. Davis,	do	A. S. Ballard,	do
Allen Hamilton,	do	Henry Ossem,	do
William Rockhill,	do	Peter Bonnavanturg,	do
William N. Hood,	do	Michael Comport,	do
Absalom Holcomb	do	Francis Comport,	do
Moses Thorp	do	Antoine Revoud,	do
Isaac Marquiss,	do	Thos. Forsith,	do
Geo. B. Walker,	do	Jas. Foster,	do
W. G. Ewing,	do	John Cool,	Allen county.
Joseph Morrison,	do	Mason Kendel,	do
Louis Gibode,	do	Thomas Cummings,	Fort Wayne.
William Caswell,	Allen county.	Benjamin Cushman,	do
David Pickering,	do	John McKee,	Allen county.
Benjamin Arches,	do	James Cower,	Fort Wayne.
John Rogers,	do	Jean Lavalay,	do
James Hinton,	do	James Pettier,	do
James Barnett,	do	Ramsay D. Potts,	do
D. C. Henderson,	do	Robert Hood,	do
Z. Henderson,	do	James Lee,	do
C. Cline,	do	Reeve Chapman,	do

Nath'l. B. Bowen,	Fort Wayne.	Joel Bristol,	Fort Wayne.
Francis Alexander,	do	Isaac Paterson,	do
Wm. H. Cushman,	do	Nathaniel Bowman,	do
M. R. Taylor,	do	Benjamin Harvey,	do
Thos. Rue,	do	Abner Gerard,	Allen county.
Nicholas Clinger,	do	Saml. D. Taber,	do
Peter Snakeal,	do	Joseph McKee,	do
Charles Menece,	do	G. W. Ewing,	Fort Wayne.
George Delisle,	do	Francis Dupude,	do
H. Hanna,	do	James Robidau,	do
Samuel Hanna,	do	William Luckey,	do
Samuel Brown,	do	Peter McCrea,	do
Justus Squier,	do	Moses Scott,	do
James Walker,	do	Mason Meriam,	do
John McIntosh,	do	John T. Cranee,	do
Simeon Rogers,	do	Alexander Waldron,	do
James Mosher,	do	Joseph Robedoux,	do
Jacob Burdg,	do	A. D. Woodworth,	do
John Brown,	do	Robert Dougherty,	do
Jesse Adams,	do	R. Purdy,	do
Stephen Cal,	do	A. Sutton,	do
Cyrus Taber,	do	John Edsell,	do
Thomas W. Swisney,	do	John K. Seagrove,	do
Richard Beeson,	do	Peter Gibon,	Allen county.
Michael Crense,	do	John B. Brunow,	Fort Wayne.
James Thatcher,	do	James Aveline,	do
Joseph Thatcher,	do	Peter Lumbord,	do
Tusent Robedoux,	do	Henry Cooper,	do
Israel Taylor,	do	Madore Cructer,	do
John Troutner,	do	Charles S. Griggs,	do
Samuel Watts,	do	David W. Miller,	do
Harry J. Cushman,	do	Andrew Marquiss,	do
Joseph Troutner,	do	John Klinger,	do
John Thatcher,	do	Evan Crawford,	do
Philip Foale,	do	Scott Robbe,	do
William Jones,	do	Barnard Cripe,	do
John Wheeler,	do	C. Stoufer,	do
Lewis H. Davis,	do	William Smith,	do

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W. G. & G. W. Ewing to the Hon. O. H. Smith.

FORT WAYNE, *February 4, 1828.*

DEAR SIR: In our letter, written and mailed yesterday, with our citizens' petition, we mentioned that we feared one of ours of January, requesting you to order the Intelligencer for us, had not come to hand; but we have the pleasure this evening of receiving that paper, and you have obliged us much by ordering the back numbers.

Yours of the 15th January has just been received, and it has given much satisfaction to the people to learn that the business, in relation to the removal of the agency, has been delayed until they can be heard by their petition, and numerous private communications. General Tipton having stated that the question would be settled before you would receive it, gave some persons room to insinuate that our business had not been strictly attended to. We can now undeceive them, as you tell us you will await our answer.

It is astonishing to witness the excitement produced in this county. All are crying out against this measure. Every class, farmers, mechanics, and merchants, unite in an earnest opposition. We most seriously hope that you will put down every effort and attempt that may be made in this crusade against the hopes and expectations of the settlers in this unpropitious region. They merit protection from the overweening influence of office. The principal Miamies, such as Lafontaine, &c. (speaking the voice of the nation,) have declared that they *not only want* the agency here, but they want the payment also at Fort Wayne. There, they say, they find large stores, cheap goods, mechanics, &c. and can have all their wants supplied. The voice of the land, speaking from the red and the white man, declare this to be the most suitable place. Say the Indians, we have been used to go there since we were children, and many of us were born on that spot. We like to tread upon the place of our nativity often, and visit the tombs of our forefathers. Fort Wayne has been celebrated, time out of mind, as a rendezvous for these foundlings of the forest.

It is hard to gratify the spleen or caprice of one man, at the expense of sacrificing the fond hopes and anticipations of a congregated mass of hardy adventurers, who taste but little of the pap of the exchequer, and, in this particular, have much more difficulty in squeezing through life with a competency, than their more favored competitor in the present question at issue.

Our petition was composed by a personal friend of Gen. Tipton, and does not speak in the strong language and facts that would show in full the feelings and sentiments of the people. Mr. Holman is a mild and good man, and seemed to wish to pursue a conciliatory course. Many of us gave way in our views on this account; but, where it speaks on the subject of *imposition*, we altered it, so far as to cite it by way of argument, and deny it in fact, which we do when applied generally to traders. There may be, now and then, an instance; but, in most cases, the Indians are treated in the kindest and most courteous manner by the trader, to elicit their custom and good will.

We fear we shall exhaust all your patience in perusing our tedious letters. You must excuse us, as we are deeply concerned in the present event.

With great esteem, your obedient servants,

W. G. & G. W. EWING.

Hon. O. H. SMITH,

Representative in Congress.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. O. H. Smith to the Secretary of War, dated

“HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, 15th February, 1828.

“I have the honor to enclose you a remonstrance and a number of letters from gentlemen of the first respectability, residing at and near Fort Wayne, Indiana, relative to the removal of the Indian Agency from that place.

“An answer relative to the removal is respectfully requested, as the people are much agitated.”

Extract of a letter from John McCorkle to W. McLean.

PIQUA, February 7th, 1828.

DEAR SIR: I have just understood that General Tipton has been getting the agency removed from Fort Wayne to some point on the Wabash. You, I presume, are aware of the local situation of that country—situated, as it is, entirely remote from any inhabitants or settlement, except the flourishing settlement at Wayne itself.

Now, Sir, this settlement has been formed in consequence of the establishment of the agency at that place. Reserves were made for the use of the agent, thereby holding out a guarantee to the purchasers of public lands and property, that this agency would be continued at that place until the Indians should be removed from that country. Among others, I became a considerable purchaser of considerable public lands there, for which I paid an extravagant price. One tract, near and adjoining the reservation for the agency, I paid \$26 per acre for; predicated on the belief that this agency would be continued at the old established post, which is now *nearly central* to all the Indian villages and reserves of that agency. If a removal should take place, the *Indians*, as well as the inhabitants at Wayne, who have expended their all there, will be greatly disobliged.

Fort Wayne has, from time immemorial, been the place of resort to all the Indian tribes situated in the northwest. If the agency should be removed, the strong garrison which is now there, in the event of a war, is the only safe place of refuge for hundreds of miles around it, will go to decay. With the Indians, Fort Wayne is, in story, to them, as the Mahometan's *Mecca*; where their fathers made their fire, and where their fathers have laid their bones; and to this place they wish to have all their business, and yearly resort.

I feel no hesitation in saying, the removal of the agency is not for

the convenience or benefit of the Indians; and I must ask you to use your influence to prevent ~~its~~ removal, and that the payments be continued there. At Wayne, there are large and respectable mercantile houses established, and due competition in trade, and the Indians are enabled to make their purchases at the lowest rates: whereas, if removed, there will be no competition, and a few favored traders will monopolize the whole.

I refer you to Senator Noble, for the statement of the citizens of Wayne, regarding the locality of the Indians situated in the agency, &c.

Your friend,

JNO. McCORKLE.

Hon. W. McLEAN.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. W. McLean to the Secretary of War, dated

WASHINGTON, 23d February, 1828.

SIR: Mr. McCorkle, the writer of the enclosed letter, is a highly respectable citizen of the village in which I reside, and I feel it to be my duty to present it for the consideration of the Department.

From the facts stated in this and other letters I have received upon the subject, I am inclined to think the removal of the agency or payments to the Indians, from Fort Wayne, would be impolitic, and injurious to the Indians. It is known that the Indians generally expend their annuities for merchandise, and, if paid at Fort Wayne, they will have opportunity of procuring their supplies on much more reasonable terms than they would from a few traders who might be permitted to vend merchandise to them in the wilderness.

I will thank you to inform me whether it is in contemplation to change the location of this agency, as I wish to communicate it to Mr. McCorkle, and others, who have written me on the subject. I can but express a hope that the Department will not direct or allow the change to take place.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

WM. McLEAN.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.

Anthony L. Davis to Hon. O. H. Smith.

FORT WAYNE, *February 2d, 1828.*

HON. O. H. SMITH, *Representative in Congress:*

SIR: I must again trouble you, as you are the representative of the people. Our mutual friend, the general, and the citizens in this vicinity, differ in opinion respecting the removal of the agency. I am of the opinion that a removal could not better the government or Indians, and have no hesitation in stating that a removal for some time would make it worse: for the trade in this place has regulated itself, and is now principally confined to traders, who have established themselves, and are men of as much honor and veracity as there are in any country, which you know will not be the case if a removal should take place, for you cannot be unacquainted with the kind of men that generally settle in new countries; and I further hesitate not in stating that the Indians, from their long habit of frequenting this place, would prefer the agency remaining here to its being removed to any other place. Your utmost exertion in this case will be gratefully acknowledged by your obedient servant, and the citizens of this vicinity unanimously.

In haste, I remain yours, &c.

ANTHONY L. DAVIS.

Hon. O. H. Smith to the Secretary of War.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WASHINGTON, *5th January, 1828.*

SIR: Understanding that you will be warmly pressed to remove the Indian Agency now established at Fort Wayne, in the State of Indiana, I beg leave to enter this my remonstrance, in the name of the citizens of the section of country in which Fort Wayne is situated, against the removal at this time. And, Sir, if it should be thought necessary by your Honor, the remonstrance of the people themselves can and will be obtained.

I understand that it is contemplated to remove the agency down the Wabash, and that one of the reasons which is adduced for its removal is, that the means for individual speculators of the Indians is too great, owing to the agency being situated in so densely a populated place as Fort Wayne. But to this I would say, that, if you remove the agency to the Wabash, or any other place, you will find the traders there also; and, you may rest assured, not more honorable than the traders at Fort Wayne, many of whom, to my own knowledge, are gentlemen of high respectability. Fort Wayne is the spot where the Indians, belonging to the Miami and Potawatamie tribes, have been in the habit of visiting

and trading for years, and I am credibly informed would not wish to leave it. All their traces, from the Wabash, St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, Maumie, Mississinawa, Auglaze, White river, and the rest of the other Indian locations subject to the Fort Wayne agency, lead to that place. In addition to this, I would call your attention to the fact, that, from the disposition of the government towards the Indians, their future destiny and final location, it is to be presumed that, before many years, the whole of that unfortunate people, attached to the Fort Wayne agency, will be removed beyond the Mississippi, and, consequently, no agency in the section of country in which Fort Wayne is situated will be required. I respectfully request, that, before an order for the removal of the agency is made, (if that should be the present views of the Department,) that the *people* in that section of country should have an opportunity to present the *whole* facts, by way of remonstrance; as, from my limited knowledge of the location of all the tribes which are under the Fort Wayne agency, I am able to give such facts in detail as might be desirable to the Department, and which I can procure from the people of that district, although the agency is established at this time in my congressional district.

Your obedient servant,

O. H. SMITH.

HON. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.

